

Could You Not Watch With Me One Hour?

MATT.

Text: Matt. 26: 40

The first portion of our Scripture tonight shows the human side of Jesus perhaps better than any other. In this passage it lets us see that He was very much like us. He was facing this problem and it was troubling Him. And like us He wanted company and companionship. He wanted someone to be near Him and just by the mere fact of their presence He would feel better. Isn't this the normal human reaction? When we have a problem or something is bothering us we like to share it with someone. We like to confide in a friend or a husband or a wife. We are told by sociologists and psychologists that this is one reason why many people commit suicide. Because they do not have anyone they feel that they can talk to and confide in. They feel that they are neglected and that no one cares what happens to them and so they end it all. Humans need other humans to confide in and in this respect Jesus must have been very human.

But the disciples must have proved to be a big disappointment to Jesus. When Jesus went off by Himself to pray they fell asleep. We can't find fault with this too much, because they had had a fairly strenuous week and they were plain tired. In fact many of us do this. We come home from work full of resolve to accomplish something that evening, and we sit down and in a very short time we are fast asleep. The good resolutions are soon forgotten and as a result what we wanted to do must wait until another time. The quietness and comfort of our homes after perhaps a very noisy and strenuous day is too much for us to overcome and so we fall asleep. This must have been the case with the disciples. The quietness of the evening in the garden and the peacefulness of the setting must have lulled them to sleep. But Jesus concerned with His problem and filled with emotion and anticipation of what was to come could not understand their indifference. So He asked the question, "Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

Then in the second part of our scripture we find Peter as the central character. Of all the disciples Peter was perhaps the most loyal to Jesus. But he cannot be judged by this portion of scripture. All of the others had deserted Jesus. But Peter alone showed courage in going to the house of the High Priest. He left himself wide open to be arrested when he stepped into that courtyard. But Peter must have wanted to help Jesus if he could and this was the only way he could find out. The courage of Peter stands out when we consider that three times he was recognized as a follower of Jesus. Most people would have run out of that house the first time they were recognized. But not Peter. The second time that Peter denied his knowing Jesus his accent gave him away. The Galileans had an ugly accent we are told. In fact it had such an ugly accent that no Galilean was permitted to pronounce the benediction in the Synagogue. Then when the cock crowed Peter remembered the words of Jesus.

Now there is some controversy as to this rooster part of the story. According to the timetable available, this questioning took place around midnight and after. In fact the time is thought to be around three in the morning when this happened. Now it is a known fact that roosters do not usually crow at three in the morning. For one thing the house of the High Priest was right in the center of Jerusalem. There was a regulation in the Jewish law that made it illegal to keep chickens in the Holy city because they defiled the Holy things. The hour of three a.m. was called cock crow and for this reason. The Roman guard was changed in the castle of Antonia and the sign of the changing of the guard was a trumpet call. The Latin word that trumpet call meant cock-crow. And perhaps the third time Peter denied Jesus the trumpet call rang out and Peter was reminded of the words of Jesus.

Now here are two very good object lessons for Christians. The usual reaction to these two incidents is that the denial of Jesus does not concern us because we do not deny Him but accept Him. And as for that deal of the garden this does not concern us either.

But we deny Jesus today. Every time we do not take advantage of

the opportunities that are given us to help others is a denial of Christ. Each time we hesitate and let an occasion to be of service go by, we are denying Jesus. We have said it before but it bears repeating, and this is the fact that once an opportunity is lost it rarely comes again. We are given the choice at the moment and if we fail to take advantage of it usually we don't get a second chance.

Then there is the little matter of watching with Jesus for one hour. Perhaps this is where the idea originated about Church services being of one hour's duration. But here is where some real differences of opinion come in. Many people say, I go to Church on Sunday isn't that enough? Well it all depends I suppose on the person and the reason for attending. If we go to Church because then our neighbor can't say that they went to Church and we didn't. Or if we go to show off our clothes. Or if we go because we feel we are going to please the preacher. Or that the preacher is going to say nice things to us and make us feel good. Or any other number of reasons then our attendance isn't worth much. We should go to Church to worship God. And if we think that one hour a week is enough then maybe we don't love God quite as much as we should. Those of you who were here on Sunday and now tonight know that you have spent about two hours this week in Church. If you attend the Good Friday service in Emmenton, then you will have three hours. And if you attend the cantata on Saturday night then you will have four hours. But when you consider that out of the 168 hours in a seven day week you will perhaps spend one to four hours with God this is pretty meager indeed. But hours amount to $1/42$ of the total hours in a week. Now I am not saying that our love for God is to ^{BE} accounted for by how much time we spend in Church. This is not the case. But our service to God should be done outside of Church also. Each time we come here and each time when we depart we should have just a little more zeal and a little more fire to work that much harder for God and His kingdom. This is what Church should do for us. It should inspire us, it should uplift us and give us the ammunition we need to fight the battle of this life. The hymns we sing, and the prayers

Wed. April 10th 1968

*Call to Worship Pg. 160

Hymn 161

Scripture Matt. 26; 36-46 & 69-75

*Gloria Patri

*Prayer

Anthem ?

Announcements

Church Good Friday 2:00

Hymn 158

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 479

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen